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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/590,800	08/25/2006	Naoya Amino	21713-00035-US1	2201
30678	7590	02/14/2011	EXAMINER	
CONNOLLY BOVE LODGE & HUTZ LLP		SCOTT, ANGELA C		
1875 EYE STREET, N.W.		ART UNIT		PAPER NUMBER
SUITE 1100		1767		
WASHINGTON, DC 20006				
		MAIL DATE		DELIVERY MODE
		02/14/2011		PAPER

**Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.**

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

<b><i>Supplemental Notice of Allowability</i></b>	<b>Application No.</b>	<b>Applicant(s)</b>	
	10/590,800	AMINO ET AL.	
	<b>Examiner</b>	<b>Art Unit</b>	
	Angela C. Scott	1767	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--

All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTO-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. **THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS.** This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

1.  This communication is responsive to the IDS filed February 4, 2011.
2.  The allowed claim(s) is/are 11-13 and 21.
3.  Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
  - a)  All    b)  Some\*    c)  None    of the:
    1.  Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
    2.  Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. \_\_\_\_\_.
    3.  Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

\* Certified copies not received: \_\_\_\_\_.

Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application.  
**THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE.**

4.  A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient.
5.  CORRECTED DRAWINGS ( as "replacement sheets") must be submitted.
  - (a)  including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review ( PTO-948) attached
    - 1)  hereto or 2)  to Paper No./Mail Date \_\_\_\_\_.
  - (b)  including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of Paper No./Mail Date \_\_\_\_\_.

Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings in the front (not the back) of each sheet. Replacement sheet(s) should be labeled as such in the header according to 37 CFR 1.121(d).
6.  DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

**Attachment(s)**

1.  Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
2.  Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
3.  Information Disclosure Statements (PTO/SB/08),  
Paper No./Mail Date 2/4/2011
4.  Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit of Biological Material
5.  Notice of Informal Patent Application
6.  Interview Summary (PTO-413),  
Paper No./Mail Date \_\_\_\_\_.
7.  Examiner's Amendment/Comment
8.  Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance
9.  Other \_\_\_\_\_.

/Mark Eashoo/  
Supervisory Patent Examiner, Art Unit 1767

### **Information Disclosure Statement**

The information disclosure statement (IDS) submitted on February 4, 2011 was filed after the mailing date of the Notice of Allowance on November 24, 2010. The submission is in compliance with the provisions of 37 CFR 1.97. Accordingly, the information disclosure statement is being considered by the examiner.

### **REASONS FOR ALLOWANCE**

The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance: Claim 21 requires a blend of a rubber (A) and a rubber gel (B) wherein the glass transition temperature of rubber (A), TgA, is in a range of from 0 to 8 degrees higher than the glass transition temperature of the rubber gel (B), TgB. While Kawakami et al. teaches that the glass transition temperature of the rubber (A) and the rubber gel (B) should be close, it does not give any guidance on which component should have a higher glass transition temperature. Previously cited US 6,403,720 to Chino et al. teaches that a rubber gel blended, as the high Tg polymer, with a rubber component having a lower Tg promotes incompatibility. However, this reference encourages the incompatibility and teaches that the Tg of the rubber should be at least 10° C less than the Tg of the rubber gel (Col. 1, lines 60-65). This teaching goes what is claimed. Therefore, since there is no teaching in the prior art of record, or in the knowledge of one of ordinary skill in the art, as to the rubber component having a glass transition temperature which is within 8 degrees higher than that of the rubber gel component, this claim and its dependent claims are allowable.

Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

### **Correspondence**

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Angela C. Scott whose telephone number is (571) 270-3303. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday through Friday, 6:00 am to 11:00 am and 3:00 pm to 6:00 pm, EST.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Mark Eashoo can be reached on (571) 272-1197. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

/A. C. S./  
Examiner, Art Unit 1767  
February 8, 2011

/Mark Eashoo/  
Supervisory Patent Examiner, Art Unit 1767